

REMARKS

Applicant has considered the final Office Action dated December 31, 2010 and provides the following response thereto. Applicant presents these remarks in a sincere effort to place the application in consideration for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Final Office action, Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12, 14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23, and 24. were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,616 to Halperin et al. (*Halperin*) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,042,334 to Mosgrove et al. (*Mosgrove*) and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0217939 to Levy et al. (*Levy*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, and *Levy* does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations as set forth in independent claim 1. For example, independent claim 1 recites “a top cover placed over a stack of keypad components; a bottom cover placed under the stack; *the top cover and the bottom cover defining a common perimeter*; and *an over molded portion that extends around the perimeter* to form a self contained key pad unit,” which is not taught or suggested in the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, and *Levy*.

In particular, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the statement in item 4, page 4 of the final Office Action dated December 31, 2009 that “Halperin teaches a key pad assembly ... comprising: a top cover placed over a stack of keypad components ... a bottom cover placed under the stack defining a common perimeter” As a basis for this statement, the final Office Action appears to equate *Halperin*’s keyboard card which can be detached from a handset as describing or being analogous to Applicant’s keypad assembly *comprising a top cover and a bottom cover defining a common perimeter*. However, this is a mischaracterization. According to Applicant’s claim the keypad

assembly comprises a top cover and a bottom cover sandwiching a plurality of key pad components to form a self contained key pad unit. In contrast, *Halperin* describes a detachable keyboard card (top portion) having only a plurality of keys. The keys when depressed sends a signal to the handset (bottom portion), and the signal is applied to a point of contact within the handset. *Halperin* does not disclose or suggest a top cover or a bottom cover, as described in the pending independent claims. Therefore, *Halperin* at most describes a keyboard card that can be detached from the main body of the handset in order to facilitate the user to enter numbers in a manner similar to a conventional keyboard (See *Halperin*, col. 2, lines 35-41, col. 4, lines 25-38). However, *Halperin* does not mention a keyboard card having a top portion and a handset unit having the bottom portion aligned along a common perimeter to form a self contained key pad unit.

Applicant respectfully agrees with the final Office Action statement in item 4, page 4 that “the combined system of Halperin and Mosgrove fails to disclose an over molded portion.” However, the final Office Action appears to rely on *Levy* for this feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees. According to Applicant's claim *an over molded portion extends along the perimeter* of the top cover and the bottom cover to form a self contained keypad unit. In contrast, *Levy* discloses graphical elements for a key pad printed on a MYLAR substrate, wherein the substrate is *over molded within or on top of the material of key pad* to form an adaptive keyboard interface (See *Levy*, paragraphs [0067], [0070], and [0077]). That is very different from what Applicant is claiming. Therefore, *Levy* fails to teach or suggest over molding along a perimeter defined by a top cover and a bottom cover, as described in the independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, and *Levy* fails to teach or suggest “a top cover placed over a stack of keypad components; a bottom cover placed under the stack; *the top cover and the bottom cover defining a common perimeter*; and *an over molded portion that extends around the perimeter to form a self contained key pad unit*,” as recited by independent claim 1.

The above equally applies to independent claims 11 and 16. Therefore, the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, and *Levy* also fails to teach or suggest “sandwiching a plurality of key pad components between a top cover and a bottom cover, *the top cover and bottom cover defining a common perimeter*; and *inserting molding*

around the perimeter for encapsulating the top cover and the bottom cover,” as recited by independent claim 11 and “a top cover placed over the stack; and a bottom cover placed under the stack, the *top cover and the bottom cover define a common boundary around the stack, the common boundary over molded to encapsulate the stack* between the bottom cover and the top cover,” as recited by independent claim 16.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1, 11, and 16 are not obvious in view of the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, and *Levy*, and therefore the rejection of claims 1, 11, and 16 under 35 USC 103(a) should be withdrawn. Applicant requests that claims 1, 11, and 16 now be passed to allowance.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, and 23 depend from, and include all the limitations of independent claim 1. Dependent claims 12 and 14 depend from, and include all the limitations of independent claim 11. Dependent claims 17-18, 20-21, and 24 depend from, and include all the limitations of independent claim 16. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of dependent claims 2-3, 5, 12, 14, 17-18, 20-21, and 23-24 and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 4 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Halperin* in view of *Mosgrove* and *Levy* and further in view of US 6,950,680 (*Kela*)

For the above mentioned reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, and *Levy* fails to teach or suggest “a top cover placed over a stack of keypad components; a bottom cover placed under the stack; *the top cover and the bottom cover defining a common perimeter*; and *an over molded portion that extends around the perimeter* to form a self contained key pad unit,” as recited by independent claim 1. Subsequently, *Kela* also fails to remedy this deficiency with respect to Claim 1 and also Claims 4 and 10 which depend from, and include all limitations of independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of dependent Claims 4 and 10 and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over US *Halperin* in view of *Mosgrove* and *Levy* and further in view of US 2004/0110529 (*Watanabe*)

For the above mentioned reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, and *Levy* fails to teach or suggest “a top cover placed over a stack of keypad components; a bottom cover placed under the stack; *the top cover and the bottom cover defining a common perimeter*; and *an over molded portion that extends around the perimeter* to form a self contained key pad unit,” as recited by independent Claim 1 and “sandwiching a plurality of key pad components between a top cover and a bottom cover, *the top cover and bottom cover defining a common perimeter*; and *inserting molding around the perimeter* for encapsulating the top cover and the bottom cover,” as recited by independent Claim 11. Subsequently, *Watanabe* also fails to remedy this deficiency with respect to Claims 1 and 11 and also Claims 8 and 13 which depend from, and include all limitations of independent Claims 1 and 11, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of dependent Claims 8 and 13 and requests withdrawal of the rejection

Rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Halperin* in view of *Mosgrove* and *Levy* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,841,857 (*Zoiss*)

For the above mentioned reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, and *Levy* fails to teach or suggest “a top cover placed over a stack of keypad components; a bottom cover placed under the stack; *the top cover and the bottom cover defining a common perimeter*; and *an over molded portion that extends around the perimeter* to form a self contained key pad unit,” as recited by independent Claim 1. Subsequently, *Zoiss* also fails to remedy this deficiency with respect to Claim 1 and also Claim 7 which depends from, and includes all limitations of Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of dependent Claim 7 and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Halperin* in view of *Mosgrove* and *Levy* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,517,683 (*Collet*)

For the above mentioned reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, and *Levy* fails to teach or suggest “a top cover placed over a stack of keypad components; a bottom cover placed under the stack; *the top cover and the bottom cover defining a common perimeter*; and *an over molded portion that extends around the perimeter* to form a self contained key pad unit,” as recited by independent Claim 1. Subsequently, *Collet* fails to remedy this deficiency with respect to Claim 1 and also Claim 9 which depends from, and includes all limitations of Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of dependent Claim 9 and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection of Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Halperin* in view of *Mosgrove*, *Levy*, *Kela* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,395 (*Arneson*)

For the above mentioned reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of *Halperin*, *Mosgrove*, *Levy*, and *Kela* fails to teach or suggest “a top cover placed over the stack; and a bottom cover placed under the stack, *the top cover and the bottom cover define a common boundary around the stack, the common boundary over molded to encapsulate the stack* between the bottom cover and the top cover,” as recited by independent claim 16. Subsequently, *Arneson* also fails to remedy this deficiency with respect to claim 16 and also claim 19 which depends from, and includes all limitations of claim 16. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of dependent claim 19 and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the

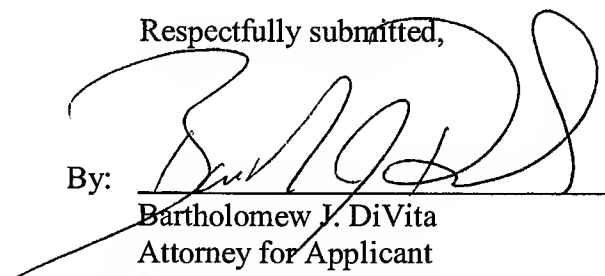
arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 502117. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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